



PETER A. DeANGELIS, JR.
TOWN MANAGER

TOWN OF BARRINGTON RHODE ISLAND

July 27, 2009

Honorable Daniel A. Procaccini
Judge of the Superior Court
Frank Licht Judicial Complex
250 Benefit Street
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Judge Procaccini:

The Barrington Town Council, at a special meeting held on July 27, 2009, voted unanimously to adopt the following statement with respect to your comments during the sentencing of Ryan Greenberg.

"It has been a grim week for Barrington. As the Barrington police force worked silently and tirelessly in the early morning hours to search the river for yet another young victim of its waters, the Chief of Police was being criticized by Judge Procaccini at Ryan Greenberg's sentencing for the death of Patrick Murphy. The Judge accused the police of "a lack of due diligence" that has "exacerbated a teenage culture that believes there are no consequences for unlawful behavior". This statement apparently was predicated on a letter that the court received written by Janice Black on behalf of CeCe Sartor, who called the police that fateful day back in July 2007, to complain of illegal parking at the right of way next to her property. The police responded quickly to her complaint, arrived in late morning to find teenagers responsive and willing to move their illegally parked vehicles. There was no evidence of alcohol use, in the vicinity, in their behavior or in the original complaint. For the Judge to condemn a committed and responsive police department, based on face value of a letter sent from two town residents who historically have had, and continue to have personal and legal disagreements with the Town of Barrington and the Barrington Police Department, is uninformed at best, and offensive at worst. At the end of the day, the defendant is solely responsible for his actions, not alcohol, not ADD diagnosis, not parents, and certainly not the Barrington police.

Why the Town of Barrington has been chosen to be the scapegoat for all the cultural ills of the State is anyone's guess, but as a Council, we are angered and offended by the Judge's inappropriate and uninformed accusations. We solidly support Chief John LaCross and the Barrington Police Department, for their consistent and dedicated efforts to address the prevalent national issue of underage drinking and its too often tragic consequences. In the greatest of ironies, we know that Chief LaCross has dedicated his career to this particular issue. The Judge's

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criticism and sentencing suggests the unfortunate effectiveness of the "lawyering" and Judge entitlement he decries.

Finally, we publicly extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to Patrick Murphy's family. Our hearts, and those of our community, are with you."

The Town Council fully supports the efforts by the Police Department to combat underage drinking.

I hope you will consider my invitation to meet with town officials to discuss the initiatives taking place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Peter A. DeAngelis, Jr.
Town Manager